

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAJ-01 IO-10 OMB-01 CU-02 /071 W

----- 073834

R 070705Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 423

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 3823

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, MY, ETRD, EMIN

SUBJ: GOM-PRC "BLOOM IS OFF THE ROSE"

REF: A) HONG KONG 7227 (NOTAL)

B) KL 3085

1. SUMMARY: HONEYMOON APPEARS TO BE OVER IN PRC-GOM RELATIONS.
IN ADDITION TO UNHAPPINESS OVER CCP ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE TO MALAYAN
COMMUNIST PARTY, GOM IS DISTRESSED BY PRC EMBASSY'S CONTACT WITH
MALAYSIAN CHINESE HERE. GOM RESPONSE WILL BE TO LIMIT CULTURAL AND
OTHER EXCHANGES WITH PRC. END SUMMARY.

2. IN JUL 1 TOUR D'HORIZON FONMIN PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRE-
TARY (PAS) HANDLING CHINA AFFAIRS (ZAINAL ABIDIN BIN IBRAHIM)
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SAID THAT GOM IS INCREASINGLY UNHAPPY WITH STATE OF RELATIONS

WITH PRC. IN ADDITION TO CONTRETEMPS OVER CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO MALAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY (REF B) WHICH WAS FINALLY MADE PUBLIC BY MALAYSIAN PM RAZAK DURING JUN 20-22 RULING PARTY CONGRESS (SEE KL 3612 NOTAL), PAS CITED PRC AMBASSADOR WANG'S VISIT TO THE SELANGOR CHINESE ASSEMBLY HALL, WHICH WAS REPORTED IN LOCAL CHINESE-LANGUAGE PRESS JUN 27. (ASSEMBLY HALL IS UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING CHINESE CLANS AND GUILDS.) PRESSED FOR OTHER INSTANCES OF "DISTRESSING" PRC BEHAVIOR, PAS GREW VAGUE BUT HE BELIEVED THAT, FOLLOWING INITIAL PERIOD WHEN CHINESE WERE EXTREMELY "CORRECT" IN THEIR DIPLOMATIC BEHAVIOR, MISSION HERE IS NOW OPERATING ON "FRINGES OF THE DIPLOMATICALLY ACCEPTABLE." (MALAYSIANS ARE, OF COURSE, EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO PRC CONTACTS WITH LOCAL CHINESE, AND THEIR DEFINITION OF WHAT IS DIPLOMATICALLY ACCEPTABLE IN THIS CASE IS QUITE NARROW.)

3. AS SIGNAL OF ITS GROWING DISTRESS, GOM HAS DECIDED TO LIMIT CULTURAL AND OTHER EXCHANGES WITH PRC. WU SHU ACROBATIC TOUR HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN CANCELLED, AND PRC TRADE MISSION WHICH WAS IN THE WORKS HAS BEEN POSTPONED. GOM IS ALSO CONTINUING TO DISCOURAGE MALAYSIANS WHO WANT TO VISIT CHINA.

4. QUERIED WHETHER GOM INTENDS PRESS PRC TO JOIN INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL, PAS RESPONDED THAT "IT IS TOO SOON, AND ANYWAY THEIR TIN SALES ARE NOT REALLY LARGE ENOUGH TO BE A PROBLEM."

5. ZAINAL EXPRESSED VIEW THAT RECENT MALAYSIAN RUBBER MISSION TO PEKING HAD NOT ACHIEVED ANYTHING OF IMPORTANCE. HOWEVER, OTHER SOURCES CLOSER TO THIS SUBJECT, INCLUDING GOM DELEGATION MEMBER LIN SEE YAN (CHIEF ECONOMIST, CENTRAL BANK) SEE SHIPPING AGREEMENT AS IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT. LIN ALSO THINKS PRC ACTIVITY IN NATURAL RUBBER MARKET AT THIS TIME IS USEFUL.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE GROWING DISILLUSIONMENT IN GOM WITH PRC RELATIONS, RAPPROCHEMENT WITH PEKING REMAINS A CENTERPIECE OF GOM'S NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY, AND OF GOM'S PRETENSIONS TO LEADERSHIP ROLE WITHIN ASEAN. RECENT EXPRESSIONS OF GOM DISENCHANTMENT WITH PEKING TEND TO CONFIRM THAT MALAYSIA IN FACT HAS BENEFITTED VERY

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LITTLE BY BEING ASEAN PACESETTER IN ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH PRC, AN IMPRESSION EMERGING MORE CLEARLY NOW THAT OTHERS ARE CLIMBING ON THE BANDWAGON.

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